

**Anyone knowing of fraud, waste, or abuse involving
U.S. Department of Education funds or programs
should call, write, or e-mail the Office of Inspector General.**

Call toll-free:

The Inspector General Hotline
1-800-MISUSED (1-800-647-8733)

Or write:

Inspector General Hotline
U.S. Department of Education
Office of Inspector General
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20202

Or e-mail:

oig.hotline@ed.gov

Your report may be made anonymously or in confidence.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS UNDER THE RECOVERY ACT

Section 1553 of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act provides protections for certain individuals who make specified disclosures relating to Recovery Act funds.

Who is protected?

Employees of non-Federal employers receiving recovery funds, including State and local governments, contractors, subcontractors, grantees, professional membership organizations, or any person acting in the interest of recovery fund recipients.

What are whistleblowers protected from?

Covered employees are protected from being discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for making a protected disclosure.

What kinds of disclosures are protected?

To be protected, the disclosure must be made by the employee to the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, an Inspector General, the Comptroller General, a member of Congress, a State or Federal regulatory or law enforcement agency, a person with supervisory authority over the employee, a court or grand jury, the head of a Federal agency, or their representatives.

In addition, the disclosure must involve information that the employee reasonably believes is evidence of:

- gross mismanagement of an agency contract or grant relating to recovery funds;
- a gross waste of recovery funds;
- a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety related to the implementation or use of recovery funds;
- an abuse of authority related to the implementation or use of recovery funds; or
- a violation of law, rule, or regulation related to an agency contract or grant relating to recovery funds.

How to report a whistleblower reprisal complaint:

If you have a whistleblower reprisal complaint related to Recovery Act funds provided by the U.S. Department of Education, contact the OIG Fraud Hotline:

Phone: 1-800-MISUSED

Email: oig.hotline@ed.gov

Or write: Inspector General's Hotline
Office of Inspector General
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-1500